

Reply to Final Office Action of June 15, 2005  
Suppl. Amendment Dated: October 14, 2005

Appl. No.: 09/924,722  
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-009/4342

*Claim 14 (Original):*

1        Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The first end system of claim 10-14, further  
2 comprising:

3            sending another plurality of loopback command packets at a sending frequency; and  
4            comparing said sending frequency with said receive frequency, wherein said first  
5            end system determines not to send new loopback command packets based on said  
6            comparing.

1        Claim 16 (Original): The first end system of claim 15, wherein said memory  
2 continues to indicate that said bi-directional virtual circuit is operational if said sending  
3 frequency is less than said receiving frequency.

1        Claim 17 (Original): The first end system of claim 15, wherein said first end system  
2 waits a random amount of time before stopping sending new loopback command packet  
3 if said sending frequency is at least approximately equal to said receive frequency.

1        Claim 18 (Original): The first end system of claim 10, wherein each of said first end  
2 system and said another end system comprises an edge router.

1        Claim 19 (Original): The first end system of claim 10, wherein said memory stores  
2 a virtual circuit (VC) table, wherein said VC table stores data indicating whether said bi-  
3 directional virtual circuit is operational.

1        Claim 20 (Original): The first end system of claim 10, wherein data packets are  
2 transmitted on said bi-directional virtual circuit only if said memory indicates that said bi-  
3 directional virtual circuit is operational.